

Remarks

In the Office Action dated April 7, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 29-30, 34-36, 38, 41-44, 48 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combination of the article by P. Mengel and the article by Svetkoff, et al. The Examiner rejected claims 33, 37, 47, 39-40 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Mengel and Svetkoff, et al. in view of the U.S. Patent to Montillo, et al. 6,526,165. The Examiner rejected claims 31-32 and 45-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combination of Mengel and Svetkoff, et al. and further in view of the U.S. Patent to Prosky 4,159,648. The Examiner rejected claims 35 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combination of Mengel and Svetkoff, et al. and further in view of the U.S. Patent to Kent, et al. 6,047,084.

By this Amendment, Applicants' Attorney has amended each of the independent claims of the application to more particularly point out and distinctly claim what Applicants' regard as their invention. In particular, each of the independent claims has been amended to make it clearer that the processing of the 3-D and 2-D data further includes the step of applying thresholding techniques and a connected component algorithm to the 3-D and 2-D data in combination to form the blob and edge images (i.e., paragraphs 59 and 60 of the corresponding published patent application 2003/0016859). Clearly, these features are neither taught, disclosed nor discussed by any of the references of record taken either alone or in combination with one another.

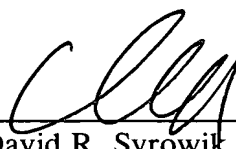
Consequently, in view of the above and in the absence of better art, Applicants' Attorney respectfully submits the application is in condition for allowance which allowance is respectfully requested.

A check in the amount of \$1,020.00 is enclosed to cover the Petition fee. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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